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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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TEXT
STATE FOR RP/DAS FUNSETH; BANGKOK FOR ODP DIRECTOR
EO 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: SREF, ODP
SUBJECT: JAN 16 MEETING WITH SRV AMBASSADOR ON POLITICAL
----- PRISONERS NEGOTIATIONS
REFS: A) 84 GENEVA 1057, B) STATE 1830
1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT.)
2. CHARGE FLACK ACCOMPANIED BY REFUGEE COUNSELOR MET WITH
AMBASSADOR NGUYEN THUONG AND THIRD SECY LE DINH CHAT JAN
16. REF B AIDE MEMOIRE (ENGLISH ORIGINAL) WAS HANDED TO
THUONG AND FLACK READ MISSION'S INFORMAL FRENCH TRANS-
LATION. THUONG VOICED REACTIONS AT TWO POINTS DURING
THE ORAL DELIVERY: PARA 3 EXPRESSION OF GREAT DISAPPOINT-
MENT AND PARA 6 REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF SITES OTHER
THAN GENEVA.
-
3. FOLLOWING THE ORAL DELIVERY OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE, FLACK
DELIVERED REF B TALKING POINTS ALSO IN FRENCH. THUONG
MADE NO RPT NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS DURING DELVIERY DF
THE TALKING POINTS.
4. THUONG STATED THAT HE WILL TRANSMIT THE US AIDE
MEMOIRE AND POINTS TO HANOI. HE OFFERED A FEW "PERSONAL
REMARKS". THUONG RECALLED THAT DURING HIS LAST MEETING
WITH AMBASSADOR CARMEN HE STRESSED THE SRV POSITIONS ON

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TWO POINTS. PER THUONG, THESE SAME POSITIONS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED BY THE VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER. VIETNAM VIEWS THE REEDUCATION CAMP INMATES NOT SIMPLY AS PEOPLE WHO COLLABORATED WITH FOREIGNERS, BUT AS THOSE WHO COMMITTED GRAVE CRIMES AGAINST THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. THUONG CONTINUED "LOOK AT **KLAUS BARBIE**. HE WAS BROUGHT BACK TO FRANCE AFTER SO MANY YEARS TO STAND TRIAL. MANY OF THESE PEOPLE PROBABLY COMMITTED WORSE CRIMES THAN BARBIE". THUONG SAID VIETNAM CANNOT ALLOW THESE PEOPLE TO BE USED AGAINST ITS PEACE AND SECURITY.

5. THUONG REMARKED THAT CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ WAS RECENTLY IN VIETNAM. HE SAID SUCH VISITS ARE WELCOME BECAUSE THEY INCREASE THE CHANCES OF AN EVENTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE US AND VIETNAM. THUONG SAID SOLARZ HAD BROUGHT UP THE SAME POINT REGARDING RELEASE OF REEDUCATION CAMP INMATES. SOLARZ HAD BEEN TOLD THAT VIETNAM CANNOT LET THESE PEOPLE BE USED IN A WAY WHICH IS DETRIMENTAL TO VIETNAMESE SECURITY. THUONG CONTINUED THAT VIETNAM ALSO HAS A CERTAIN SOLIDARITY WITH NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND CANNOT ALLOW THE US TO USE FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE FIGHTERS AGAINST OTHER PEOPLES. THUONG CONTINUED THAT THE REEDUCATION CAMP INMATES ARE BAD PEOPLE WITH BAD MORALS. HE SAID "LOOK AT FORMER AIR MARSHAL KY, THE CHIEF OF DRUG DEALERS IN THE US. THESE ARE MURDERERS, TERRIBLE PEOPLE".

6. THUONG THEN SAID THAT THE BEST THING WOULD BE FOR THE US TO GIVE THE SRV ASSURANCES THAT THE US WILL NOT ALLOW RELEASED PRISONERS TO WORK AGAINST VIETNAM OR OTHER COUNTRIES. THE US POSITION ON THIS MATTER SHOULD BE STRICTLY HUMANITARIAN AND NOT POLITICAL. THUONG SAID "IF IT IS TRUE YOU ARE HUMANITARIAN AND NOT POLITICAL, IT WILL NOT BE HARD FOR YOU TO GIVE THESE ASSURANCES".

7. AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING, THUONG SUGGESTED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE US AND VIETNAM ON THIS MATTER SHOULD BE LEFT OPEN. HE REITERATED HIS PROMISE TO TRANSMIT THE US POINTS TO HANOI AND SAID "WE'LL SEE". HE THEN REMARKED THAT ALL OF US CAN DO A BIT MORE TO TRY TO ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US. PER THUONG, THE US MUST UNDERSTAND VIETNAM'S LEGITIMATE CONCERNS. HE SAID VIETNAM FRANKLY WANTS TO TURN THE PAGE OF HISTORY. VIETNAM HAS DONE THIS WITH FRANCE, A COUNTRY WHICH VIETNAM ALSO FOUGHT AND WITH WHICH VIETNAM EVENTUALLY CONCLUDED A PEACE. THUONG SAID "WE HAVE MADE A PEACE WITH THE US. WE SEE THINGS IN TERMS OF THE FUTURE. WE NEED TO SEE AN INDICATION OF THE SAME WILL FROM YOUR SIDE". FLACK COMMENTED THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THE US OFFER TO MEET ON POLITICAL PRISONERS MIGHT BE A GOOD WAY TO BEGIN AND THUONG AGREED. FLACK

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